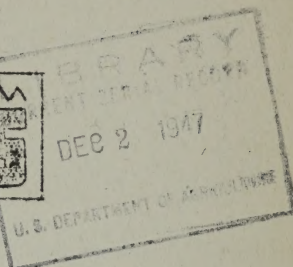


New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

2/7/47
No. 228

**FARM PROGRAM
news**



CONTROL GRAZING AID
TO EROSION CONTROL

- "One of the biggest things the Government's Agricultural Conservation Program has done for the stockmen of McKinley County is to convince them of the importance of controlled grazing," says Edgar Bond, Jr., Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

It is estimated that from 25 to 50% of the erosion on many ranches has been caused by two things - overgrazing and man-made wagon and car roads. Stockmen have it within their power to correct both of these, and the Conservation Program has shown them the importance of doing just that.

"One of the first steps in controlling erosion is to allow plant growth to accumulate," says Mr. Bond. "The only way that can be brought about is for stockmen to control the number of livestock that graze on areas where erosion is evident."

"As one goes over these areas where controlled grazing has been practiced for several years, he will notice in the arroyos and small gulleys, where plant growth has accumulated, erosion has been checked. The plant growth in these arroyos and gulleys has retarded the flow of water and allowed it to desilt."

Yes, believe it or not, controlled grazing is one of the greatest aids to erosion control there is.

"Today in McKinley County," Mr. Bond said, "many of the stockmen are practicing controlled grazing, and all stockmen have reduced their herds to carrying capacity of the ranges - thanks to the ACP."

(MORE)

HOUSEWIVES URGED TO SAVE

USED KITCHEN FATS - Total domestic production and imports of fats and oils this year will be less than they were for 1946 but at the same time needs have more than doubled, C. V. Homphill, State Director, Production and Marketing Administration, announced.

This is the reason U. S. Department of Agriculture continues to cooperate with industry in keeping collection of used kitchen fats high to help make up the deficit, he said.

In many parts of the state prices housewives are receiving range from 6 cents to 10 cents per pound, or from 2 to 6 above the four cents they were receiving a few weeks ago. This price increase gives housewives additional incentive to keep saving used kitchen fats, he said.

Collection and pick-up service must be maintained to keep used fats moving regularly, Homphill added. Any complaints should be reported to local county Agricultural Conservation Offices.

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FROZEN EGG BUYING

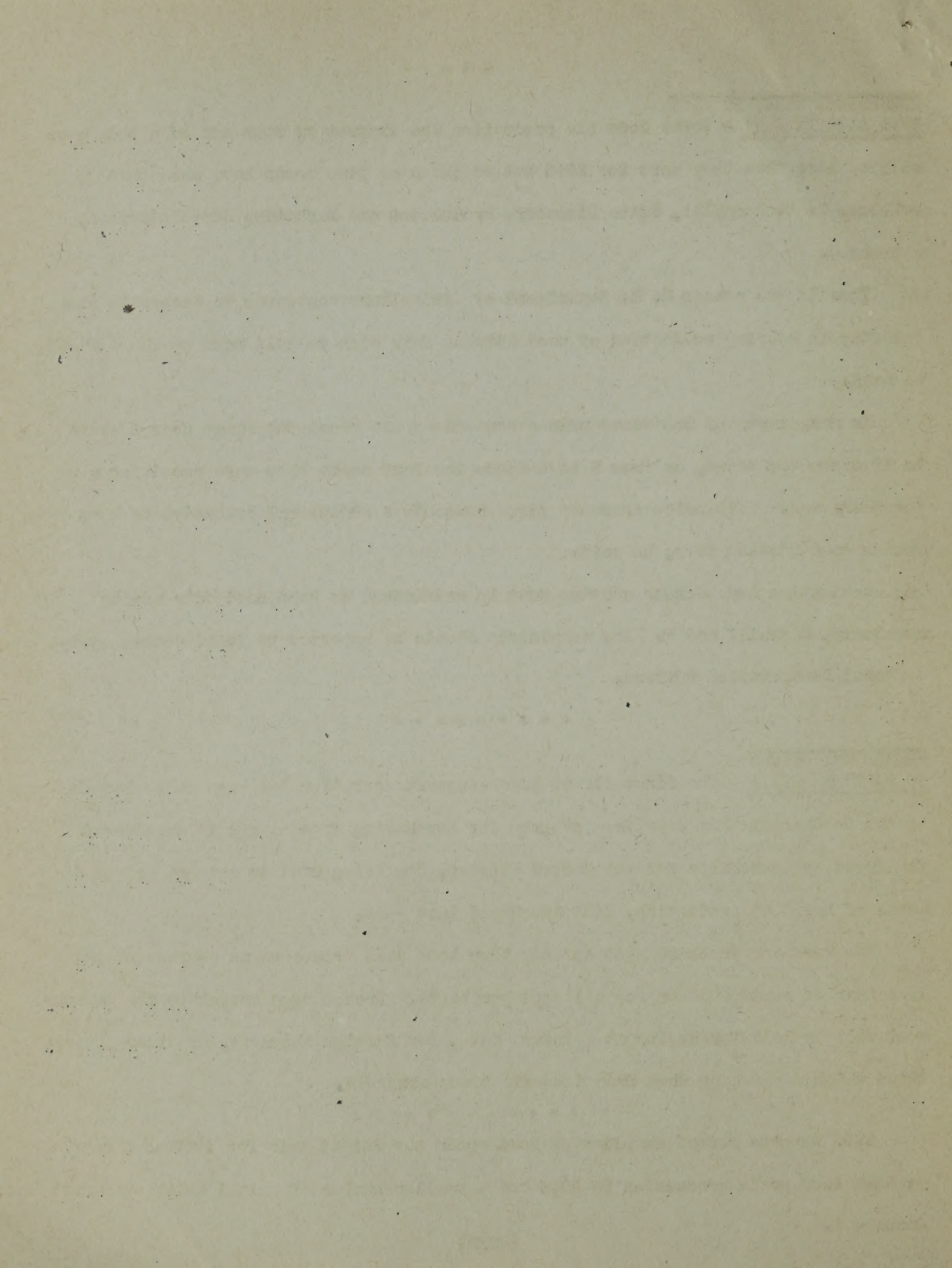
TO BOLSTER PRICES - The first direct price-support operation for eggs to be launched by the Government this year is a program for purchasing frozen eggs to supplement the dried egg purchases for the United Kingdom, now being used to support prices in areas of heaviest production, USDA announced last week.

Breakers and freezers must certify they have paid producers an average of not less than 33 cents a dozen for all eggs purchased. Frozen eggs bought by the Government will be held for drying at a future date, for foreign shipment, or other disposition which would keep them from domestic trade channels.

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USDA reports record supplies of food grain per animal unit for 1947 as a result of high food grain production in 1946 and a smaller number of animal units on farms January 1.

(MORE)



PUBLIC SHARES BURDEN
OF FARM CONSERVATION

- The boys and girls who play in city parks have just as big a stake in the Nation's soil as the boys and girls who are raising prize livestock for county fairs, says an ACP administrator, who points out that the important task of looking after the land and water resources of our farmland...demands the attention and support of all 141 million Americans.

"Food doesn't grow on store shelves or in milk trucks. It comes from productive land and nowhere else," Grant P. Thompson, Assistant Director of the Agricultural Conservation Program, told a meeting of the agricultural livestock division of the National Crushed Stone Association in Chicago January 30.

"The bottles of milk set on the city family's doorstep every morning and the meat on the city dinner table come from one place -- the soil. The price and continuous supply of that milk and that steak depend upon the productivity of the soil that produces them."

Thompson pointed out that farmers are now putting six times as much lime on their land as they did 11 years ago when the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) began. But there are other soil-building practices which probably need greater encouragement than lime-spreading. For example, he said, building up the soil with minerals is uneconomical if we do not carry out other practices which will keep the soil from being washed away by erosion.

Discussing the annual cost of the ACP to U. S. citizens, Thompson said:

"If we break down the share that goes for harvested cropland, we find that the people...are contributing less than \$1.50 a person to help farmers take care of the land that produces nearly all of their food and much of their clothing. The health and strength of all our people depend upon the productivity of our land. We must keep our fertility bank account solvent... to insure prosperous farmers, well-fed consumers and a strong America."

(MORE)

FAO ASKS REACTION
ON FOOD PROPOSALS

- Calling on the people of the United States to inform themselves about proposals for world food programs, Under Secretary of Agriculture N. E. Dodd has declared that decisions on world food proposals must be made by the people of the various Nations and their governments.

The recently concluded special commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization has submitted proposals originating with representatives of various Nations to the member governments. After consideration, the proposals will be acted upon by an FAO Conference.

Principal ideas advanced by the United States, through Mr. Dodd, the U. S. member of the Preparatory Commission, are:

1. Problems of better diets and price stabilization in connection with general expansion of production, employment, trade, and consumption, should be approached as envisaged in proposals for an International Trade Organization, considered complementary to the FAO program.
2. Particular price-stabilization problems through separate but coordinated international agreements covering specific commodities, should be met within the general framework of principles for such agreements provided in the proposed ITO.
3. Participating nations, under such commodity agreements, should consider methods of using excess supplies to support special food programs to improve the diets of the most needy groups in connection with long-term development plans designed to overcome the causes of malnutrition.
4. Annual consultation should be held upon such programs by the responsible national officials, in view of the importance of coordinating national agricultural and nutritional programs.

Long-term objectives of international action agreed upon by FAO member nations are, "Developing and organizing production, distribution, and utilization of basic foods to provide diets on a health standard for the people of all countries; and stabilizing agricultural prices at levels fair to producers and consumers alike."

FARM GRAIN STOCKS
HIGH ON JANUARY 1

- Most of the Nation's grain holdings January 1 were on farms, reports the Department of Agriculture.

Stocks of corn in all positions on January 1 were the largest for the past 4 years, stocks of oats were the second largest, and barley and rye were the smallest. Wheat stocks were smaller than on January 1 of any of the preceding 6 years, but much larger than average 1935-40 stocks.

Here are the figures: Wheat -- 643 million bushels, of which 366 million were on farms; Corn -- 2,237 million bushels, with only 72 million in off-farm positions; Oats -- nearly 941 million bushels, 42 million of this off farms; Barley -- 175 million bushels, 65 million off farms; Rye -- $8\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels, $4\frac{1}{2}$ million off farms.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

"There is a way to lick these problems here at home, and that is to have genuine teamwork of labor and industry and agriculture rooted firm in the understanding that the common good must have priority over the special interest of any one group." -- Chester C. Davis, former War Food Administrator.

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Favorable dairy product prices compared with feed costs are expected to halt the downward trend in milk cow numbers in 1947. Milk production is expected to be maintained at or near 1946 levels, says USDA.

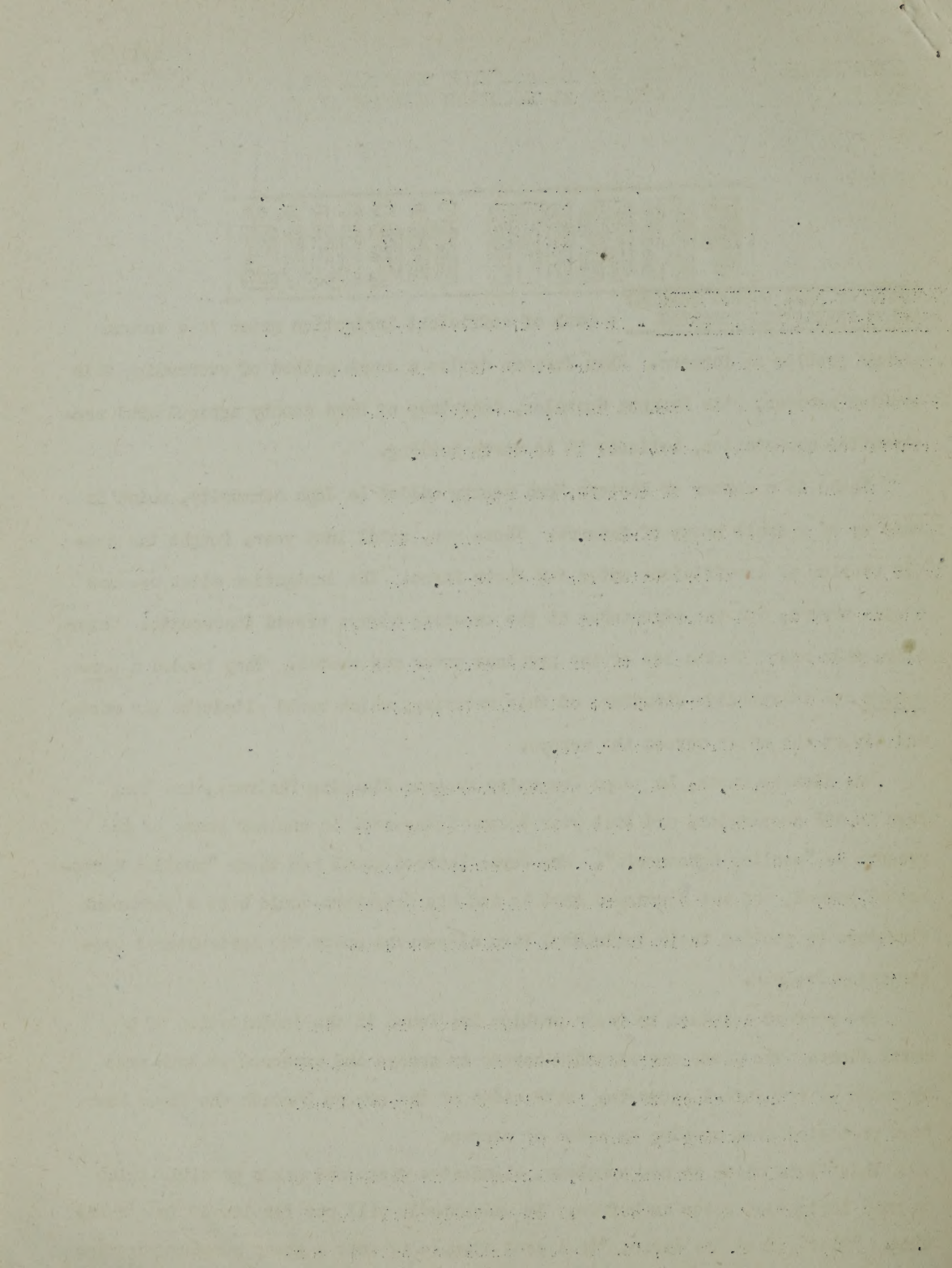
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"We can use a lot of the capital and the labor we have in every community to put complete soil-and-water-use programs in effect on individual farms...Soil conservation and the kind of farming that goes with it are not only right morally, they pay big dividends in dollars and cents."-- Chester C. Davis, President, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

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The 1946 onion crop is the largest on record. Besides containing Vitamin C and necessary mineral elements, they're a bargain in flavorful eating.

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INSURANCE DEADLINE

SET FOR WHEAT - (Date) is the final date in (Name) county for writing

Federal all-risk crop insurance contracts on the 1947 spring wheat crop. All farmers in the county who grow spring wheat are eligible to obtain the insurance. Chairman (Name) of the county agricultural conservation committee suggests that producers growing spring wheat will want to consider it seriously under the circumstances affecting 1947 production.

Federal all-risk crop insurance protects wheat crop investments against loss from all natural farming hazards. The insurance is non-profit, and premiums do not have to be paid for several months. Complete information about crop insurance can be obtained from crop insurance agents or at the county office in (Place).

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FINAL DATE SET FOR
COTTON INSURANCE

- The final date for writing cotton crop insurance in (Name) county is (Date), Chairman (Name) of the county agricultural conservation committee announced today.

Federal all-risk crop insurance protects the investment that cotton growers have in their crop. This protection is against all the unavoidable hazards of farming.

Complete information about this insurance for any farm in the county can be obtained at the county office in (Place). In addition, crop insurance agents have been appointed in all the cotton-growing areas of the county and are available to explain the program to farmers.

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WHEAT EXPORT GOAL

DUE TO BE TOPPED - Exports of wheat and flour are likely to exceed the 267-million-bushel goal announced last August, according to the USDA. Exports totaled 164 million bushels in the last half of 1946 and may reach 325 million bushels for the entire marketing year.

Wheat disappearance in the U.S. is expected to total nearly 790 million bushels -- 525 million bushels for food, 180 for feed, and 87 for seed. This would leave about 465 million bushels for export and for carryover July 1, 1947. Exports of 325 million bushels would leave a carryover of about 140 million bushels on July 1.

USDA HAS AGGRESSIVE
PROGRAM FOR COTTON

- Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson pointed out in a recent speech that the Department has been following two objectives with regard to cotton: Increasing the export and world consumption of U.S. cotton, and improving the social and economic condition and the welfare of the people in the Cotton Belt.

Programs begun during the war and continuing include:

(1) Research -- As a result of programs based on research, many specialty markets are opening for cotton. Thus in the cotton industry, there is hope of producing standardized products that will compete both in the domestic and export market.

(2) Export payment programs -- UNRRA was sold as much raw cotton as possible for needy countries. Commodity Credit Corporation cotton was supplied both Germany and Japan under a program set up with the approval of all occupying countries. Sales of textiles in the two countries will pay CCC for the cotton. USDA will take an active part in the transition program to restore private trading in occupied areas.

(3) World trade -- Both Government and private cotton interests will work aggressively to rebuild world trade in cotton and to assure the U. S. a fair share.

The Secretary reported that at the end of 1944, Government holdings and cotton under loan amounted to $7\frac{1}{2}$ million bales. Today the CCC is sold out of cotton.

Since October 1933, loans have been made on more than 31 million bales. Producers have redeemed nearly 22 million bales. With the exception of 100,000 bales of 1946 cotton, the rest has been turned over to CCC in satisfaction of the loans and has been disposed of. CCC has taken in more money for the cotton it has sold than it paid in supporting the market, with a net gain of \$189,000,000. Best thing of all about the CCC cotton operations, the Secretary said, is the way they helped the cotton farmer -- with orderly marketing and protection against price failure.

DISTILLERS CORN USE
RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

- Improvement in the quality of corn being marketed justifies lifting of restrictions on use of corn by distillers, USDA announced last week. Until this recent ruling by the Department of Agriculture, distillers could use only corn grading below No. 3.

Still in effect are the requirements (1) that no wheat or wheat products be used in making distilled spirits for beverage or industrial purposes, and (2) that no rye be used in making ethyl alcohol or butyl alcohol, and that only a limited amount of rye be used in making beverage spirits. Export demands for wheat are still in excess of available supplies, and supplies of rye remain relatively short.

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CANADIAN-U.K. PACTS
GIVE FARM STABILITY

- Trade agreements continuing into the postwar period provide price stability in agriculture for Canada and the United Kingdom. Agreements between the two countries cover wheat, bacon, beef, lamb and mutton, cheese, evaporated milk, eggs, poultry, apples, peas, beans and fiber flax.

Under the major agreement -- a 4-year wheat agreement -- Canada will sell to the United Kingdom a total of 600 million bushels of wheat during 1946-50. For the first 2 years, 160 million bushels will be sold at a fixed price of \$1.55 a bushel. For the last 2 years of the agreement, the United Kingdom will accept 140 million bushels at not less than \$1.25 per bushel in 1948-49, and not less than \$1 in 1949-50.

Contracts for bacon and beef have been negotiated up to the end of 1948, and lamb and mutton agreements have been extended through 1947.

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USDA has bought 23,000 head of high-grade dairy heifers and pure-bred bulls and 164,000 head of utility draft animals for UNRRA shipment to war devastated countries.

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Denmark's 11-month production of milk, butter, pork, and eggs combined is 7 percent above the total 1945 production.

STATE 1947 PRODUCTION GOALS APPROVED

- The 1947 Crop and Livestock Goals have been approved and released to counties. The 1947 acreage goals for Dry Edible Beans, Barley, All Sorghums, and Cotton are higher than the 1946 acreage of these crops. The Rye goal is the same as the 1946 reported Rye acreage.

The 1947 goal acreages for Corn, Oats, and Irish Potatoes are less than the 1946 reported acreages for these crops.

The goals for milk production, chickens and bees are above the 1946 figures for these items. The goal figures for beef cows, spring pigs, sheep and lambs and turkeys are less than the corresponding 1946 figures for the same items.

In general, the 1947 New Mexico State goals follow the same pattern that the National 1947 goals are to the 1946 National acreage and production figures, which calls for another year of production at near-wartime levels.

The 1947 production as planned should take care of the strong domestic demand, supply some to foreign countries that are still critically short and contribute some to building up a reserve of many commodities that were depleted during the recent emergency.

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FARMERS STEPPING UP

LIME USE UNDER ACP - Use of lime to improve soil fertility and increase production is expected to increase 15 percent over last year American farms under the Agricultural Conservation program (ACP). In 1945, more than 90 percent of the lime used by farmers was spread on farms participating in the ACP program. Although the figures are not complete, use of lime in 1946 is expected to reflect the same proportion.

ACP committeemen expect that about $29\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of lime will be put on the land in 1947 under ACP in areas where it is needed, compared with an estimated total of less than 25 million in 1946. The anticipated 15-percent increase, however, will still be far short of what the Nation's soils need. Some 60 million tons of lime should be spread annually for the Nation's best welfare, surveys made by ACP committeemen have revealed.

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Egypt has agreed to extend a 1-year credit of 1 million Egyptian pounds (1 pound = \$4.13) to Czechoslovakia for purchase exclusively of long-staple cotton.

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New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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FARM PROGRAM
FARM NEWS

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA BUYS TURKEYS
TO SUPPORT PRICES

- Government purchases of turkeys may amount to as much as 10 million pounds under the price support program recently announced by the Department of Agriculture. Turkeys to be bought include 1946-crop birds remaining unsold by producers and breeding stock which will be marketed late this spring.

Purpose of the program, which will be operated through June 30 is to insure prices to growers reflecting at least 90 percent of parity. This cannot be done under present market conditions mainly because of record stocks of turkeys in storage.

USDA will purchase turkeys owned by producers in storage or alive and on farms at levels intended to reflect a national average producer liveweight of 25 cents per pound for all young toms and for heavy young hens, and 32.5 cents a pound for hens under 18 pounds. A national average of 27.9 cents a pound at the farm is required to reflect 90 percent of parity to the producer.

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EARLY ORDERS NEEDED
TO ASSURE BALE TIES

Farmers are urged to place orders for bale ties early again this year. Those whose bale tie requirements last year couldn't be met until around November will take the advice to heart. Production and distribution of ties this year will be entirely up to the trade, with no Government direction or allocation. So it's particularly important that farmers indicate their demands by placing orders and accepting deliveries as early as possible. That way dealers can order maximum quantities without building up abnormal inventories. Factories must be kept busy if enough bale ties are to be made to meet the needs.

(MORE)

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FARMERS POOL EFFORTS
IN CONSERVATION WORK

- Community project features of the 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program will provide the means through which New Mexico farmers can make a unified attack on wide-spread conservation problems of a community nature, Santiago Marquez, Member of the State FMA Committee, said yesterday.

By executing a pooling agreement, groups of farmers or ranchers may receive practice program assistance for large scale conservation projects affecting a number of farms or ranches. Practice payments usually cover about one-half the cost of the work, with the remainder of the cost being carried by farmers or ranchers participating in the project. When one of the participants is named as manager of the community project, the entire practice payment is made to him. Otherwise, the payment is divided in accordance with each operator's contribution to the project.

Marquez pointed out that the community project provision is especially useful in connection with such conservation jobs as improvement of irrigation systems, drainage ditches and erosion control structures.

He said that some 98 community projects benefiting more than 1,554 farms and about 50,000 acres of cropland were carried out in New Mexico under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program. Work accomplished included drainage ditches, irrigation laterals, concrete pipe and other structures to conserve water and control erosion in established irrigation projects and erosion control structures such as dams, dikes, ditches, and streambank rip-rapping.

Marquez said that operators who are interested in organizing community projects may obtain full information from county ACP offices located in most cases at county seats. He pointed out that only operators who file a farm plan for participation in the 1947 ACP are eligible to take part in community projects. Sign-up in New Mexico will be begun within the next few weeks.

GRAIN EXPORT GOAL
60 PERCENT SHIPPED

- By the end of January, 1946-47 shipment of U. S. grain abroad totalled more than 60 percent of the 400-million-bushel goal set last summer, the Department of Agriculture estimates.

Exports for the first 7 months of the 1946-47 marketing year exceeded 243 million bushels of grain, mostly wheat and flour. Record-breaking 1946 harvests are providing ample supplies of grain. Improvement in the transportation situation may make it possible to ship 100-150 million bushels more than the goal figure.

Through December, nearly 197 million bushels of grain and grain products had been shipped under our commitments. Despite severe transport difficulties, this was only 13 million bushels less than the shipping allocation made for the last 6 months of 1946.

After January shipments are completed, only 157 million bushels of the goal figure remain to be shipped. Of this amount 46 million bushels has been allocated for shipment in February and over 57 million bushels for March. If this same rate is maintained for the remaining 3 months of the marketing year, shipments will exceed both the 1946-47 goal and the 401 million bushels shipped abroad last year in the Famine Emergency Campaign.

A 1946-47 export goal of 250 million bushels of wheat and flour was announced at the end of the 1945-46 export program and was raised to 400 million bushels, including shipments of corn, oats, and other grains for food use abroad because of the record crops of wheat and corn produced by American farmers.

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Milk production per cow in herd on February 1 was 14.17 pounds -- 11 percent above average and the highest of record for that date. This is the twelfth consecutive month in which milk per cow in herd exceeded previous records for the corresponding months.

(MORE)

1947 FOOD SUPPLIES

EQUAL TO 1946 LEVELS - Food supplies in 1947 for U. S. consumers will be about as large per person as in 1946, according to the Department of Agriculture although supplies of individual foods will differ from 1946.

There will be less lamb and mutton, dried fruits, and perhaps smaller quantities of fresh vegetables and fruits and total milk in all forms. On the other hand, there will be more beef, canned fish, canned fruits and fruit juices, sugar, dry beans, spices, cereal products, and butter. The nutritive value of the estimated food supply for 1947 is about the same as last year, and substantially higher than in 1935-39.

The per capita consumption picture for 1946, as compared with the supply expected for 1947;

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Meat	144 lbs.	150 to 155 lbs. (5 to 10 lbs. more beef)
Fish	3.4 lbs.	Slightly larger supplies
Eggs	375 eggs	About 360 eggs
Chicken	22.8 lbs.	About the same
Turkey	4.2 lbs.	About 4 lbs.
Dairy products (all forms)	818 lbs.	About 800 lbs.
(Fluid milk and cream - 423 lbs.)		Lower, but above pre-war 340 lbs.
(Butter - 10.5 lbs.)		Lower than prewar, but over
		1945 & 1946
Fats and oils	40 lbs.	Above 1946
Fruits (fresh)	About 230 lbs.	Larger supplies
Vegetables	131 lbs.	May decline 5 to 10% from past 2 year level
Sugar	72 to 73 lbs.	About 80 lbs.
Wheat	210 lbs.	Larger supplies
Coffee	17 lbs.	About 1/2 lb. below 1946

(MORE)

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

SPREADING IN MEXICO - Since late 1946, when the current outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease began, it has spread to 9 Mexican States and the Federal District -- for the most part in a westerly direction. About 2 million cattle are estimated to be in the quarantined area. So far, comparatively few of the affected cattle have been slaughtered as a means of control and eradication.

Livestock interests in the United States are concerned over the danger of the disease becoming established in the northern part of Mexico near the 1,905-mile-long U. S.-Mexico international boundary. Congress has been asked to enact legislation which would enable the U. S. to cooperate with other American nations on a scale sufficient to control and eradicate the disease.

While special funds have been authorized to fight past outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in this country, no authority exists at present to enable the U. S. to participate in livestock disease control in a foreign country, even when requested to do so by the foreign government concerned.

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FARM NEWS SHORTS

Farmers plan to buy about 6 percent fewer baby chicks this year, Department of Agriculture reports. Western poultry producers' plans are in line with the national downward trend.

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Ample food supplies and favorable weather resulted in record high egg production in January. Number of layers on farms decreased 6 percent, but was more than offset by a new high rate for lay at 11.6 eggs per hen.

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China's 1946 cotton crop is now estimated at 1,860,000 bales of 478 pounds each, compared with last year's estimate of 1,600,000 bales.

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World rice production for 1946-47 is estimated at 7.1 billion bushels. Although 11 percent above last year's production, the crop estimate is still 4 percent below the prewar average.

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New Mexico

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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FARM PROGRAM
FARM NEWS

DEC 2 1947
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COTTON WORK CONFERENCE

TO BE HELD IN MEMPHIS - Production and Marketing representatives of the USDA from 18 cotton states will attend a cotton work conference in Memphis, Tennessee, March 3, 4 and 5. C. V. Hemphill, State Director of the Production and Marketing Administration, who will attend as representative from New Mexico, said the conference will be jointly sponsored by the Field Service and Cotton Branches of the Production and Marketing Administration. Its purpose will be to complete field recommendations on cotton acreage allotments and market quotas.

USDA, PRODUCERS MEET

TO STUDY EGG SUPPORT - Egg producers, processors and dealers will meet in Clovis, New Mexico on March 13 with Production and Marketing Administration and State Extension Service officials to discuss egg production adjustments and price supports, C. V. Hemphill, State PMA Director, announced today. Hemphill said that the Production and Marketing Administration has no specific program which it is recommending for adjusting egg production to demand during the period in which price supports are mandatory under the Steagall Amendment. The meeting, therefore is for the purpose of obtaining various proposals which might achieve such an objective. "Of particular importance," Mr. Hemphill said, "is the question of how, under the Government's program to support the price of eggs at 90% of parity as required by law during 1947 and 1948, can the needed adjustment in production be brought about. Almost every farm in the nation has at least a small flock of chickens which complicates and adds considerably to the price support problem."

(MORE)

SNOW-DUST IS WARNING
OF CONSERVATION NEED

- Recent reports of dust riding into the Midwest with snow from the western plains are a warning that conservation efforts should be redoubled in all areas even though return of dust bowl conditions is not an immediate threat, according to the Department of Agriculture. A quick check indicates that about a million acres in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and nearby areas suffered some damage from blowing in late January. Thus far, blowing damage has been local, but severe enough in places to damage wheat fields, block roads, and to cause auto accidents.

"Droughty conditions" in Great Plains areas last spring and summer followed by sudden rains prevented many farmers from planting grain or drowned out their wheat. This factor, plus the shortage of stubble for protective mulch tillage resulting from a light 1946 crop in a few areas and the heavy grazing of wheat and grain sorghum fields after harvest all contributed to light protective cover for the ground. Winter freezing and thawing pulverized the sparsely-covered soil, and the exposed dry topsoil blew eastward when high, drying winds swept down in late January and early February.

Although observers have agreed that major 1947 dust storms are unlikely, the possibility is always close. There were welcome fall rains in the southern plains, but conditions there can change suddenly. Below-normal moisture in late winter and spring might very well bring a return of critical drought conditions in some areas. Ordinarily, the worst blow period is in the early spring. Several sizeable dusters blew out of the Plains a year ago. But favorable weather and conservation practices carried out by farmers and ranchers forestalled further spread of the storms.

The time to stop dust storms is during the seasons when moisture and other conditions make it possible to put into effect the best permanent soil and moisture saving measures, conservation-minded farmers point out. Redoubling conservation efforts in every area now is the best insurance against dust bowls and other evils arising from overworked land.

(MORE)

WEATHER STILL BUCKS

FOOD NEEDS OVERSEAS - Unfavorable weather in all parts of the globe is defeating the efforts of the world's people to feed themselves. Needs for world food imports prior to the 1947 harvest have not changed during the past months, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Food shortages in Continental Europe have been aggravated by an unusually severe winter. Supplies of food fell to critically low levels in December and January because transportation was disrupted by snow and ice. Grain stocks in a number of countries will cover only one to two months ration requirements, which will not be changed by deliveries of grain from the 1946 harvest. The United Kingdom has bread grains below the stocks of a year earlier, despite voluntary use of bread coupons to reduce consumption. Meat supplies have also been reduced.

The most critical food shortage is now in the Netherlands East Indies where the main rice crop is not due until spring. A very good rice crop in India has raised public confidence in Bengal, Madras and the rest of southern India. However, anxiety of the Indian food department is now centered on the wheat needed to keep rationing going until the spring crop is marketed in May.

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ARGENTINE LINSEED OIL

- Under an agreement with the Argentine Government, the Commodity Credit Corporation will purchase 40,000 tons of linseed oil, to be shipped during the next 4 months. The oil will go to American crushers who normally import flaxseed and linseed oil and will be especially helpful in the production of linoleum, paints, varnishes, and other needed commodities.

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Department of Agriculture specialists estimate that domestic production of fats and oils for the first six months of 1947 will be 50 to 100 million pounds less than for the same period in 1946, and that shortages will be principally in the industrial fats and oils that go into the manufacture of soap, electrical appliances, paint, tires and other needed commodities.

(MORE)

WHEAT COUNCIL TO TALK
WORLD WHEAT AGREEMENT

- Discussions on an international agreement for the management of world wheat supplies will open in London March 18 when the International Wheat Council convenes. Since the last meeting of the Council in 1942, it has been expanded from the four major wheat exporting nations -- the United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina -- to include the major wheat importing nations of the world. Basic objectives of any international wheat agreement will be to establish wheat prices fair to both consumers and producers, assure adequate supplies and reserves, avoid burdensome surpluses, maintain efficient wheat production, satisfy world wheat requirements effectively and promote increased wheat consumption.

Since any agreement developed is expected to set the U. S. share of the world export trade and the price range which producers will receive for exported wheat, it will need Congressional ratification before the United States will participate. U. S. wheat producers will be watching closely the developments of the London meeting because of their interest in world wheat trade.

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COTTON EXPORT SUBSIDY

- Export differentials under the cotton-sales-for-export program have been reduced from 4 to 2 cents per pound. The program has been financed by funds (duties collected under the customs law) available under Section 32 of Public Law 320, 74th Congress. Demands on these funds for crops other than cotton make it necessary to reduce the cotton export subsidy rate.

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Proper land use on the individual farm is simply a matter of fitting the cropping system to the natural capabilities of the soil. Then, after determining the crops best adapted to the land, working out an erosion control and soil building program which will give maximum output at minimum cost while maintaining or increasing the productivity of the soil.

(MORE)

FARM NEWS SHORTS

Meat production for the principal livestock countries of the world in 1946, exclusive of the Far East, reached 60.5 billion pounds. This is 300 million pounds less than the 1945 production and 5.7 billion pounds below the pre-war average.

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The Soviet Union will consolidate its three agricultural agencies -- the Ministries of Agriculture, Technical Crops, and Livestock Production -- into a single Ministry of Agriculture in the interests of administrative efficiency.

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An Egyptian-Czechoslovakian agreement provides a credit of 1 million Egyptian pounds (\$4,128,000) to be used by Czechoslovakia for purchase of extra long-staple Egyptian cotton.

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The Argentine corn acreage planted in the last half of 1946 is placed at 9,533,000 acres, according to first estimates -- the smallest planted since 1924.

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Potatoes: If only one more ounce of potatoes a day had been eaten by everyone in the United States, over 70 million bushels more of this season's crop would have been consumed -- nearly all of the 90-million-bushel surplus.

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Recent USDA surveys show the 1947 horse population on U. S. farms is 30 percent less than the 1936-45 average of $10\frac{1}{4}$ million head. Value has declined almost one-half.

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Baby chick production in January 1947 was 20 percent above last January, with orders strongest for flock replacements, says USDA. Sexed chick demand was up 32 percent over 1946.

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